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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 1, Iss. 28)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteousness I have hid in vain, and will not let it go." (Job. 17, 4.)

JUSTICE

"We ought to be just even to our enemies." Pres. Wilson.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

VOL. I. No. 28.

New York, N. Y., Saturday, July 26, 1919.

Price 2 cents.

Waist Makers of Chicago Ready for the Struggle

GENERAL STRIKE OF THE RAINCOAT MAKERS UNION LOC. 20

A general strike of the entire raincoat industry in New York and vicinity was declared by the Raincoat Makers' Union Local 20 on Thursday, July 24 at 10 A. M.

The strike was not a sudden outbreak as may be thought. Local 20 has been experiencing in the last few months, organization activities marked by the greatest intensity. Immediately after the victory of the cloakmakers, the raincoat makers proceeded to influence their Union in setting forth demands to be conceded by the manufacturers.

These are the chief demands:

1. Week work to prevail in the entire industry.
2. A 44 hour labor week.
3. A minimum wage of \$44 per week for cementers and operators, \$53 per week for cutters, and \$25 per week for button-sewers.
4. 6 and a half legal holidays.
5. Time and a half for overtime.

The strike signal was sounded by means of a red circular. More than 2,000 workers in New York and vicinity are bound up in the strike.

It is expected that workers in shops beyond the bounds of New York will join in the strike. The officials of Local 20 strongly believe that shops of Union Hill, West New York, Mount Vernon, South Norfolk, Conn., Hartford and Bridgeport, Conn. will join in the general strike. The shops in the above-mentioned cities are under full union control, thanks to the wonderful organization work which the Raincoat Makers' Union performed in these cities within the last few months.

The strikers will meet at the following places:

Workers of New York and Brooklyn are to assemble at Manhattan Lyceum, 66 E. 4th St. Workers of Brownsville meet at the Brownsville Labor Lyceum, 219 Sackman St.

That part of the General Executive Board of our International now in New York recognized the strike of the rain coat makers at a meeting held in the office of the International. The strike, therefore, has the full support of the International. The Gen. Executive Board has appointed a special committee to aid the strike. Secretary Baroff, Brother Halperin, and Miss Fannia M. Cohn constitute the committee.

Workers Enthusiastic for a Strike.—Demands Submitted to Manufacturers. Failure to Accept Means a General Strike. Schlesinger Gives Them Until July 25 to Reply.

On Wednesday, July 16, a settlement was reached between the Cleveland Cloakmakers' Union and the manufacturers' association, and on the next day the Chicago situation was taken up. The Cleveland dispute involved 6,000 cloakmakers and that of Chicago — 6,000 waist and dress makers and white goods workers.

A year and a half ago the public of Chicago watched with tense interest the strike in which the waist, dress and white goods workers were engaged. After 10 weeks of hard fighting the heroic strikers went down in defeat. A certain Judge Baldwin, a true servant of the manufacturers, issued injunction after injunction, enjoining the strikers not only from picketing but even from appearing in the vicinity of the affected shops. The strikers were arrested in great numbers and on the flimsiest pretenses. Hundreds of them would be driven into the police stations and sentenced to imprisonment or fines.

Baldwin gave prison sentences not only to strikers but to representatives of other unions who came to address the strikers. Brother Seidman, one of our vice-presidents, who was directing the strike, also had a taste of Judge Baldwin's justice. He was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment at the county jail.

Thus the dreary weeks the workers were engaged in the bitter struggle. Those were 10 weeks of heroism and devotion unequalled in our labor movement.

The strike was abandoned, but the representatives of the International and the strikers agreed to abandon the struggle only on condition that it would be resumed at the first opportunity.

Such an opportunity has now come. As a result of the tireless work of our organizer, Brother Hochman, the waist, dress and white goods workers of Chicago again rallied around the banner of our Union, and a few weeks ago at a great mass meeting they decided to submit their demands to the manufacturers, and if the latter failed to agree to them, to call a general strike.

As soon as President Schlesinger disposed of the Cleveland situation he came to Chicago and sent a letter of the following contents to every waist and dress manufacturer of Chicago.

Chicago, July 18, 1919. Gentlemen:—

It is undoubtedly known to you that the great majority of the men and women employed in the Skirt and Dress Industry in Chicago, are members of Local 100 of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,— the organization to which the workers in our industry throughout the country belong, and with which the employers, either through their associations or individually, have entered into agreements and protocols covering wages, hours and other conditions of employment.

There is a great deal of discontent prevailing among the workers in the skirt and dress shops in Chicago, due to the fact that there are no definite wage schedules fixed in the various branches of the trade and no definite standards governing and regulating conditions of employment.

The workers here in Chicago feel that they are entitled to the same working conditions and arrangements as are enjoyed by the organized workers in the industry in other cities. Their minds are also set upon the establishment of a machinery, based upon the principle of arbitration, for the redress of grievances and adjustment of disputes that may arise from time to time between employers and employees.

We are addressing this letter to you with the conviction that differences between employers and employees can and should be adjusted in a peaceful manner and we therefore suggest that a conference be arranged for on as early a date as possible between the manufacturers or their representatives and the representatives of our organization, with a view to establishing standards and relations satisfactory to both sides.

As the present situation is very tense and becoming daily more aggravated, may we not request you to kindly favor us with a reply by the 25th inst., indicating your willingness to co-operate with us in arranging a conference as above suggested.

Very truly yours,
BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER,
President.

As we go to press the situation in Chicago is still undetermined. The manufacturers have until July 25 to reply. In a few days we will know whether the manufacturers of Chicago prefer peace or a general strike in the waist, dress and white goods industries.

GREAT VICTORY OF THE BRIDGEPORT CORSET MAKERS' UNION

The strike of our Bridgeport locals ended in a great and quick victory.

The Warner Corset Co., the first to lock out its 3,000 employees, who thereupon declared a strike, has realized in time that the demands of the workers are just and reasonable and has agreed to all of them.

These are the demands gained:

1. A preferential union shop, that is non-union workers are not to be employed while there is an adequate supply of union workers.
2. The firm agrees to do its best in persuading its employees to join the union.
3. Union dues are to be collected by an authorized representative of the workers of the shop.
4. Each department of the shop is to choose a committee of union members to adjust arising differences, and the committee is to be under the control of the union. These committees are to be recognized by the management in all negotiations that may come up.
5. The charges for thread are to be done away with. The management is to supply thread free of charge.
6. The wages of all employees are to be raised. In no case is the raise to be less than 20 per cent.
7. The question of hours is to be submitted to arbitration. Both sides agreed to accept the award of the arbitration committee.

The workers of 3 other factories followed the good example of the Warner employees and also went on strike. These firms are: The Crone Batchelor, La Reista and Birdseye Somers.

The demands of the workers of these firms are the same as those of the Warner employees.

At the time of the present writing we are not yet certain whether these strikers have already gained their demands. A dispatch to the New York Times stated that they did gain them, but we have not yet received official advices from Brother Seidman, one of the vice presidents of the International, who is directing the strike.

But it is as good as certain that the Bridgeport corset makers have won all along the line, and we think that congratulations are already in order.

Following the example of the corset makers all machinists struck for a closed shop, a 44-hour week, etc. Our best wishes go with them.

THE WEEK

By S. YANOFSKY

LUSK COMMITTEE STILL AT IT.

Bolshevism, radicalism, and every other movement that isn't entirely just so is still being hounded by the Lusk Committee and, as it declares in the newspapers which give it as much space as it needs, its work is progressing splendidly. The more the investigation, the greater the discovery. There is even a rumor that it has already unearthed the beginnings of a Red Guard in New York. The fact of the matter is that several soldiers and sailors organized a short time ago in order to fight, in the first place, hoodlums in uniforms and, in the second place, to endeavor to obtain as quickly as possible jobs for returned soldiers. The Lusk Committee sees in this organization the beginning of a prospective Red Guard. But this is not very important.

The most important thing in the newspapers this week was the bit concerning the appearance of Jas. Holland, President of the N. Y. State Federation before the Lusk Committee. He is already the second important leader of the workers whose patriotism has led him to disclose everything that he knows concerning Bolshevism. The first was brother Frayne. But Holland was not to be outdone and he did his best. He saved our country. He disclosed the very means where dangerous Bolsheviks were being bred. The source of this pest can be found in the unions of the brotherhoods. He named the Amalgamated, the Furriers' Union and the Pressmen's Union. He even branded some of the officials of unions as dangerous Bolsheviks. Mr. Bagley is, according to his opinion, a blackguard. He had agitated for sabotage on the floor of the Central Labor Union and Holland expressed his astonishment before the committee that the government had not as yet paid Bagley his full due.

Besides these whom he openly named he gave several names to the committee in secret. It is said that among the names there are those of Mr. Hillman, President of the Amalgamated and our president, Benjamin Schlesinger.

This is the type of leader who reflects glory on the A. F. of L., the labor movement, and his country. May they keep on multiplying and our democracy is assured forever.

NEW WAR CLOUDS?

The relations between America and Mexico have become very strained in the last few days. We are informed that the Mexicans continue to slaughter poor helpless Americans; that American sailors are robbed; that we can endure Mexico no longer.

Were there in Mexico a strong and powerful government, undoubtedly these things would not occur. A strong government could easily suppress such outbreaks and punish the offenders. But the trouble is that the present Mexican government is a bitter disappointment for us. Carranza is somewhat of a tinkering socialist. Worse than that, he was almost pro-German in the time of war. But the hardest morsel of all to swallow is the fact that he countenanced the passage of a law which allows the Mexican government to confiscate foreign businesses.

Thru his law, Carranza came in conflict with the greatest oil magnates of America, England, Japan and other countries. It is Mexico's misfortune to be rich in oil, a natural resource that can be bound by the dollar sign. And a law is passed which allows the confiscation of all oil-wells belonging to foreigners.

Since then, there has begun a tremendous propaganda in the press for the intervention of the United States in Mexico, and all kinds of rumors and atrocities are committed in Mexico, the daily reports of which seem to be manufactured for the purpose of intensifying this propaganda.

The Senate has taken a deep interest in Mexico this week, and it appears, that something may result unless the Carranza government should withdraw that ridiculous law, which spoils the business of our oil-merchants.

NEGRO RIOTS IN WASHINGTON

War has not as yet been declared in Washington. But the declaration is the only thing missing. Martial law rules. Americans are fighting Americans; white Americans against black Americans; nothing pertaining to war is wanting. Guns, revolvers, wounded, dead; even the "star" in case there should be need for them.

The true cause of the war is not very clear, just as the causes for many other wars remain obscure. It is said that the war began with the fact that a negro soldier absconded with the sweetheart of a white soldier. This aroused the wrath of all white soldiers in Washington, spilling it not only on the negro soldiers but on the entire black population in Washington. The negroes in Washington have lately begun to feel that they were created on this earth for something better than lynch-victims for white folks, and instead of enduring the necessary martyr-meekness the treatment of the whites, they began to answer with pistol shots. The war between the whites and the blacks grew more intense during the week and Washington now resembles a battle-field. It will indeed take a long time before Washington will again resume its old aspect.

The riots in Washington are fraught with deeper meaning than the nigger-lynchings to which we have been accustomed. The fact that such could have happened in Washington, the chief source of law and justice is indeed very meaningful, and it shows that the negro question is becoming more acute. In the present state of affairs insofar as we can judge, it appears that the white soldiers consider themselves the sole possessors of the United States, and that they may disregard law not only in reference to negroes but also as regards white folk who do not wear a uniform. It indeed is no small thing which they performed for their country. It is this and the fact that so many oppressed nations have received their freedom and autonomy that the negro in America has begun to feel that he can no longer endure insults and brutalities from the whites—as was the case until now.

It is, therefore, entirely possible that what occurred in Washington this week may repeat itself in various forms over the entire country.

THE PRESIDENT'S SECRET AGITATION UNSUCCESSFUL

The breach between the President and the Senate concerning the Peace Treaty has not been healed. On the contrary it is becoming bigger. It was thought that when President Wilson would have the opportunity to talk things over with the opposing senators privately, he would disclose to them the secret motives which forced the Peace Conference at Paris to adopt obscure ways of dealing and that these senators would weaken in their opposition, possibly relenting completely. But what happened was the converse. In the first place there are certain senators who are not at all flattered by a private interview with the President. They contend that they do not wish to be informed of anything which the entire body of the Senate dare not know. Those that have already had interviews with the President still retain their former stand,—that without certain reservations of some of the points or without an entire amendment to the Peace Treaty, the latter has small chance of being subscribed to.

The opposing Senators are very bitter as is seen from the following illustration: President Wilson had turned to the Committee on Foreign Relations for the appointment of a commissioner from the U. S. to the Reparation Committee. He stated in his letter that this was absolutely necessary, otherwise our part in the Peace Treaty would suffer a setback. But the Committee answered that it could not constitutionally do so. That the Peace Treaty must first be passed on and then only can a commissioner be determined upon.

It is evident, that Wilson can be prepared for a very serious opposition. In the time of war naturally the President possessed full power. His word was law and he used it to the fullest extent. He did not find it necessary to talk things over with the Senate. Even at the Peace Conference he invited two or three senators to aid him in his work. It appears that he wanted entire credit for the work. And now, that the senators have the opportunity, they are paying him back in his own coin. They are determined that whatever will be contained in the Peace Treaty and in the League of Nations will be essentially their work. Otherwise they will not consider it. Politics, as ever.

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ENGLISH AND FRENCH PARLIAMENTS AGREE TO THE PEACE TREATY.

The English Prime-Minister Lloyd George and the French Prime-Minister Clemenceau have had very easy sailing with their parliaments in winning them over to conclude peace. It is self-evident that England has lost nothing through the war. She had gained, as one of her statesmen declared, much more than she had ever dreamed of. Why should the English M. P.s be opposed? Of course it was feared that the Irish movement would hinder its passage, that the workers would raise too big a clamor but fortunately everything ended happily. Very little was heard from Ireland and in the event of an outcry there

would be no lack of cannon and guns to silence them. Concerning the workers, they make better liars than actual performers.

A general strike had been expected on the 21st of July as a protest against the Allied policy in Russia, as a demand for an immediate demobilization, and for the freeing of all political prisoners in the time of war. But the strike did not occur and every thing ended peacefully. The same was true of France. It is true that France is on the verge of bankruptcy. The country is ruined. An odd million human beings have been slaughtered and more millions have become widows and orphans. But how can that vindicate the feeling for vengeance which was so thoroughly satisfied!

And who can say that Germany was shown the least bit of sympathy or that anything was left her which could be taken? Consequently the French Parliament could do nothing more than agree to conclude peace. Yes indeed, Lloyd George and Clemenceau have had a tremendously easy job. They have "diverted the goods." Subsequent events will take care of themselves.

A FEW MORE CENTS FOR THE CAR COMPANIES

Beginning August the first, the riding-public of Brooklyn and New York will have to pay an extra two cents for a transfer according to an order that Commissioner Nixon of the Public Service Commission signed this week. The bill could do this was the judgment of a circuit court. The Public Service Commission is entitled to deal in this matter as it deems fit to advance or lower the car-fares notwithstanding former contracts.

Which means that the transit trust is beginning to realize its member the Albany scandal of a demands. Our readers will remember months ago in which there figured a no smaller personality than the former governor who acted as an agent for the Interborough in its attempts to increase the car-fares. The scandal killed then the attempt for an increase but it was renewed and with success.

Naturally, since Commissioner Nixon has started with two companies, there is no reason why the other companies should not immediately receive the same privilege of taking two cents for a transfer and after the institution of this system there is no reason why instead of causing confusion by the issuance of transfers, a flat rate of 7 or 8 cents shall not be put in effect. And the car companies will not be discriminated against by the public. They will pay.

The companies are continually shouting that they are bankrupt; that their expenses have increased; and that they cannot afford to carry passengers at former rates. This is the vilest subversion of truth. Their profits are tremendous. Everybody is robbing the public should they expect to? 100 per cent profit is normal. To show you how self-sacrificing they are, their profit will be only 25 per cent.

But it doesn't matter which argument is feared. The important thing is that they succeeded in obtaining what they wanted. And beginning August first, those of Brooklyn and New York using green cars will have to pay the added 2 cents for a transfer or suffer the consequences of walking.

New Conceptions of Justice

AUTHENTIC INFORMATION ON INDUSTRIAL AFFAIRS IN GREAT BRITAIN

By MARGARET BONDFIELD

Representative of the British Trades Union Congress to the Convention of the A. F. of L.

II.

When you are told that agitators stirred up strife in our country don't you believe it; it was the Government that caused most of the strikes that happened during the war. There has been an immense growth of trade unionism during the last four years. Take, for instance, the National Union of Railway Men, which had 182,000 members in 1914, and at the end of 1918, 402,000, an increase of 220,000 in that one body. The General Laborers' Union had 82,000; this sprang up to 212,000, an increase of 230,000. The Postal Clerks were very poorly organized in 1913, only 1,000; they sprang up to 26,000, an increase of over 15,500. And so I could go on reading all thru the list, so that at the end of 1918 the figures presented to the Congress showed enormous developments in certain clearly defined groups. The General Laborers at our last Congress made up a group of 922,570. The greatest single group is the miners, with 88,000. Although they were one of the most highly organized trades before the war they added 30,000 members during the war. This illustrates what I said when I spoke of unity and concentration of labor in the workshops, the factories, and the mills.

Most of you have heard about the very wonderful development of our trades union structure and the extent of grouping together interests in industries. The miners, the railroad workers and the transportation workers have formed themselves into a defensive alliance, known as the Triple Alliance. It may be appropriate at this moment to refer to a development which created a great deal of interest on this side as well as on the other side. At the time when the Triple Alliance was negotiating with the Government there was a certain amount of apprehension in the country as to what was going to happen. The Prime Minister decided to call an industrial conference. Some people had the idea—and I am not going to say it is a true idea, it probably isn't true at all—that this industrial conference was called to stave off the demands made by the Triple Alliance.

WHEN EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS AGREED

We sat for a fortnight and produced this document, which is printed as a Government report. We had a most interesting time. We met in three main committees with the leading employers of the day. We hammered out the differences between us and arrived at a moderate program which was consented to by both sides. Both employers and workers agreed we were not willing to recommend this to our constituent bodies unless we had a guarantee from the Government that they meant business. If we recommended it we must have the guarantee from the Government that they would give us the legislation we asked for.

One clause in the report dealt with what we know as recognition. Both employers and working people were unanimous, and this represents some of the big-

gest employers in our country in the engineering trades, the textile trades, the sugar and confectionery trades, and so on. This clause is as follows:

"On the subject of methods of negotiation between employers and work people, the committee recognized the importance of establishing an understanding on the question of 'recognition.' Their opinion is as follows:

(a) The basis of negotiation between employers and work people should, as is presently the case in the chief industries of the country, be the full and frank acceptance of the employers' organizations on the one hand and trade unions on the other as the recognized organizations to speak and act on behalf of their members.

(b) The members should accept the jurisdiction of their respective organizations.

(c) The employers' organizations and the trade unions should enter into negotiations for the purpose of the establishment of machinery or revision, if necessary, of existing machinery, for the avoidance of disputes, and the machinery should provide, where in any question at issue there are more than one employers' organization or trade union representing the same class of employers or workpeople, a representative method of negotiation, so that settlements arrived at will cover all parties concerned."

Now, that means, in effect, that whereas miners and railroad workers had long ago received recognition, had long ago got such a position in our country that no Government would dare ignore the direct consultation of these representatives in any question affecting their trades; nevertheless, we have many miscellaneous and unorganized trades, and we have the petty little employer, who is a tyrant in his workshop. We still have the employer (in diminishing quantity), who refused to recognize the trade union official. This document, once and for all, lays it down that no employer in our country will be considered respectable if he refuses to meet the proper trade union official for the group representing his trade.

The moral effect of this report is infinitely greater than the immediate practical effect. As a matter of fact, there is no immediate practical effect, because when we met in a conference just before I left England, we were not satisfied with the reply received from the Government and they were negotiating for further legislative guarantees on the proposals we made. This report does contain the possibility of setting up what we are going to ask for, an Industrial Parliament. In our country there are employers who prepare to work wholeheartedly—and I am not saying that in any sense of humbug or camouflage—for a drastic change in the methods of production, distribution, and exchange. They are bringing their strength to bear on one side to bring about this better system of a cooperative commonwealth.

"INCREASING THE OUTPUT."

When we met in conference the employers' side was very concerned about increasing produc-

tion, and we said: "Very well, go ahead. You write a memorandum about increasing production and show us how you want it done. Put that memorandum in as a memorandum from the employers. We, on our side, will submit a memorandum showing what we believe to be the causes of industrial unrest and the cure for the unrest. We won't ask you to agree to our memorandum, and you needn't ask us to agree to yours." Well, we came up to the scratch and put our memorandum in, but the employers could not agree among themselves as to how they were going to increase the output and what they wanted us to do in order to get it done, so they have put in no memorandum, while we have the splendid propaganda of our memorandum in a Government document.

The summing up of our memorandum is:

The fundamental causes of labor unrest are to be found rather in the growing determination of labor to challenge the whole existing structure of capitalistic industry than in any of the more special and smaller grievances which come to the surface at any particular time.

"The root causes are twofold—the breakdown of the existing capitalist system of industrial organization, in the sense that the mass of the working class is now firmly convinced that production for private profit is not an equitable basis on which to build, and that a vast extension of public ownership and democratic control of industry is urgently necessary. It is no longer possible for organized labor to be controlled by force or compulsion of any kind. It has grown too strong to remain within the bounds of the old industrial system and its unsatisfied demand for the reorganization of industry on democratic lines is not only the most important, but also a constantly growing cause of unrest."

"The second primary cause is closely linked with the first. It is that, desiring the creation of a new industrial system which shall gradually but speedily replace the old, the workers can see no indication that either the Government or the employers have realized the necessity for a fundamental change, or that they are prepared even to make a beginning of industrial reorganization on more democratic principles. The absence of any construction with the fact that labor, through the Trades Union Congress and the Labor Party, and through the various trade union organizations, has put forward a comprehensive economic and industrial program, has presented the workers with a sharp contrast from which they naturally draw their own deductions."

"It is clear that unless and until the Government is prepared to realize the need for comprehensive reconstruction on a democratic basis, and to formulate a constructive policy leading toward economic democracy, there can be at most no more than a temporary diminution of industrial unrest to be followed inevitably by further waves of constantly growing magnitude."

(To be concluded in next issue)

THE RIGHT TO STARVE.

Rights are only mental abstractions when one does not have the power to enforce the things these rights imply. Without such power, they do not exist outside the heads of those who shelter these ideas. The right to live has no reality for workers on strike, whose resources are gone and who have no power to enforce this conception. Their enemies have the power to defeat this view through control of the powers of government. It is knowledge of this aspect of the "rights of man" that prompts the Wall Street Journal to print this item:

"Right to strike may be the right to starve or change employment when the consuming public realizes its unorganized strength."

One cannot resist admiration for this frank way of putting it, brutal though it is. The union man will feel a profound sense of anger on reading it, and will ask, What difference is there between this attitude and that of the ruling classes of the late European autocracies? Of course, there is no difference, but to stop after getting this answer leaves him no better informed than before.

What he must understand is the bitter truth expressed in this statement of an ultra-capital journal. It is a fact that the "right to strike" may be the "right to starve" under the system of capitalist production of commodities. The reason why it may become a right to starve is that the right to strike is still an abstraction so long as capitalists have power to starve strikers. Of course, that is a brutal way of putting it, but that is the way it is put, and nothing is gained by ignoring it.

Incidentally, it should be noted that the era of coddling Brother Labor has passed with the passing of the war. Another war, the struggle between exploiters and exploited—which all the time surged in the background—is becoming more apparent. It is a struggle that no amount of exhortations or moral lectures will abate. Through this daily struggle the workers will eventually win the power now possessed by their enemies, and they will then be able to embody their views in reality and displace the grim reality which the Wall Street Journal mentions with satisfaction.

—N. Y. Call.

SECRETARY BAROFF BACK AT HIS DESK.

We are glad to announce, that Brother Ab. Baroff, Secretary-Treasurer of the International is back at his desk. Brother Baroff underwent a serious operation and he spent a few weeks of convalescence on a farm in Connecticut. He has now completely recovered his health and feels as good as new.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly.

Published every Friday by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union
Office, 31 Union Square, New York, N. Y.

D. SCHLESINGER, President
A. BAROFF, Sec'y-Treas.

S. YANOFFKY, Editor
R. LIEBERMAN, Business Mgr.

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EDITORIALS

CHICAGO AGAIN THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

In Chicago as in New York there is a Ladies Waist Makers' Union, a branch of the big trunk, The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The Ladies Waistmakers had struck there a few weeks ago, but without success. The police, the gangsters, hirelings of the employers, and the judges with their injunctions and their brutal inhuman convictions of the strikers could not withstand. A few weeks of an heroic struggle, and they were forced to return to their shops again.

The manufacturers of ladies waists had conquered. "Law and order" had prevailed. "The girls will strike no more. They have been taught their lesson." Of this they now were certain.

But the employers were laboring under a delusion. True the girls returned to their shops, but their unions did not forsake them. Moreover, they then first realized the great importance of being organized in a powerful union. In their mighty struggle, they had learned to cherish the power of unity. Since they have nurtured and reared this spirit of unity they have been making steady preparations and they are again determined to struggle for that which is rightly theirs; that which their co-workers in New York have already won.

The ladies waist manufacturers did not, perhaps, expect this. They were undoubtedly under the impression that their victory would endure. They must realize now that there is no such thing as defeat for a worker. In the end victory is always his.

As yet the strike has not been announced. President Schlesinger who is now in Chicago, after accomplishing a silent victory in Cleveland, is seeking to negotiate with the manufacturers in an amiable way. Perhaps the Chicago Ladies' Waistmakers will secure their principal demands without a strike. Should this not be possible they are prepared at the first signal of their union to leave their shops and, in this wise, force the manufacturers to yield to their just demands.

It is not necessary to prophesy now the form of the struggle which the Ladies Waistmakers strike of Chicago will assume.

But, of one thing we are certain that should the Chicago Ladies' Waist manufacturers prefer a fight in the hope that they will be the victors, they will be sorely disappointed. Heroic and self-sacrificing as the strike of the Chicago waist makers was two weeks ago, the present struggle is sure to be marked by even greater heroism and vigor. In this struggle the complete energy and work of the last few years of organization will be thrown in. It shall be invigorated by the victories gained by the International

in the different cities of America within the past few months. The victorious cloakmakers of Chicago will be a source of aid and strength to the Ladies waist strikers. They will strike until they are victorious.

The manufacturers, if they are not entirely blind and if they have the slightest grasp of this momentous occasion must concede the demands. They can take an example from the Ladies waist makers strike in New York and ask the New York ladies waist manufacturers whether or not they regret their obstinacy which forced their workers to strike. They will certainly receive good counsel — to give in to every demand of the workers, if they do not wish to aggravate the situation, and if they still want to continue in business.

If the Chicago manufacturers have their own interests at heart they will do this. But the employers, it appears, are not always clear concerning their own interests. They are often beguiled by all sorts of shyster lawyers, who only seek the furtherance of their own ends in a strike. It is possible, therefore, that a Ladies Waist Makers strike will occur in Chicago with the same result as in New York and as in many other cities. The strike will be won. The Union and the International are thoroughly determined that the struggle of the Ladies Waistmakers of Chicago shall rank with the other great struggles and the brilliant victories of the last few months.

THE CLASS-CONSCIOUS WORKER

The words *class-conscious* and *class consciousness* are used frequently in our periodicals and at our meetings. So much so that they have become incorporated in the vocabulary of the average workers. But it seems to us that their meaning is not always properly understood and not infrequently grossly misunderstood. Let us try to elucidate the meaning of these current phrases.

Just as mankind is as yet divided into nations, so is modern society, even in the most democratic countries, divided into classes. The principal classes of modern society are on one hand the employers, the capitalists of industry, the rich, the influential — in a word, the capitalists, and on the other hand, the workers.

There is a continuous struggle going on between these two classes. This struggle has its crests and hollows. Sometimes it is quiet and scarcely noticeable and sometimes it is tumultuous and tempestuous. But the struggle is always on. It never ceases. This is the class-struggle.

What are the fundamental issues of the struggle? On the surface it is a struggle in and thru which the workers seek to gain more of the material necessities

of life and more of leisure. But the worker who has only this as his goal is as yet far from being class-conscious. He may be engaged in the class-struggle, but he is not yet aware of its true meaning and anti-material goal.

The real issue of the struggle between the two principal classes of modern society is: which class shall hold the power of ordering our life in general? The capitalist class, which now holds this power, considers itself fully entitled to its position of dominating authority over the affairs of society. The working class strives to wrest this power from the capitalist class. It seeks to rise from its present position of subjugation to that held by the present ruling class. It seeks to gain the upper hand in directing the affairs of society not for the purpose of subjugating the capitalist class but to abolish class rule altogether. The working class seeks to reconstruct modern society so that all class divisions disappear entirely.

This is the real goal of the class struggle. The working class does not seek to become the ruler and dictator of society, for this would merely mean a shifting of rulers, a turning of tables, and would do away with the evil of a ruling class and its attributes of oppression and arbitrariness.

For a worker to be class-conscious means not only not to be ashamed but, quite the contrary, to be proud of the fact that he is a member of the working class. A class-conscious worker will never seek to disguise his social station. He will not seek to get into the "higher spheres" and will not be flattered when a representative of the capitalist class graces him with a smile or a handshake. The class-conscious worker considers himself not the equal but the superior of the capitalist, for it is he, the worker, who maintains society by ministering to its fundamental needs.

At the same time to be a class-conscious worker does not mean to be deceived concerning his own class. To say that the working class is the more enlightened, the more capable of being the leading class of society means simply to indulge in self-deception. A time will surely come when the worker will be in possession of all the accumulated knowledge of mankind and will be abreast of the latest intellectual, artistic, and technical achievements of his time, for he will enjoy all the opportunities of education that are denied him at present. The universities, the libraries, the museums and all other institutions of culture will be at his disposal. But this time has not yet come. The ruling class still holds a monopoly over science and art; the worker still gets the crumbs of the material as well as the spiritual delicacies of society, and it is of little use to be deceived in this regard.

To continue in power the ruling class takes recourse not only to open violence and arbitrary rule but also to higher knowledge and education. And if the class struggle is to wrest the power from the ruling class, it must also seek to gain more knowledge for the workers.

For this reason, if a worker pursues any course of study and at the same time remains a worker, he carries on the class struggle in no less a measure than the worker who takes part in a strike, for instance. When workers found a school where they may study

various subjects, such as history, geography, economics, sociology, natural sciences, etc., they thus carry on the class-struggle in the most effective way. For, it seems to us, the working class can never succeed in wresting the power from the ruling class by force alone. And even if it should succeed in this it will not be in a position, by mere force, to exercise its power and influence on behalf of society as a whole. To turn its victory over the ruling class into a victory of society, to bring about the abolition of all class rule, the working class will be in need of variegated intellectual equipment, of general knowledge, of general culture.

It is in this sense that we understand the terms *class-consciousness* and *class-struggle*. We deemed it necessary to say a few words about this hackneyed matter, because the misuse and abuse of these words have become all too prevalent.

We are reminded also by another circumstance. The ruling class, realizing the danger of the class-struggle conducted in the way we indicated, has set about suppressing it by every available means. The readers know the campaign of persecution against the Rand School, the only worker's university in America. They also know of the efforts exercised by the ruling class to suppress every written or spoken word that carries class enlightenment to the workers. Labor meetings are considered as and handled as gatherings of arch-conspirators. Any book or pamphlet exposing the evils of the present economic and political system is branded as seditious literature advocating the forcible overthrow of organized government. And, what is more, the workers do not seem to be much interested in these persecutions, as if the matter did not concern them at all.

This indifference is in itself very deplorable. It shows that the workers who daily carry on the class struggle are really not class-conscious. But the most deplorable thing of all is to see workers' representatives aid the ruling class in keeping the workers in spiritual darkness.

It is one of the saddest, nay, the most tragic, spectacles to see a Holland, a Frayne arm in arm with the Lusk Committee, whose sole object is to rob the workers of every opportunity of unpolled education.

And that such sorry creatures can thus betray the workers and at the same time pose as representatives of the very workers they betray, without a voice of protest from the latter, is ample proof that, as regards class-consciousness, the American worker is woefully backward.

It may be stated, of course, that the Lusk Committee is conducting its campaign not against education, not against propaganda, but against Bolshevism, and that this circumstance makes the Committee and its campaign considerably less objectionable. There are many socialists, it may be argued, who surely know the meaning of class-struggle, and who, nevertheless, oppose Bolshevism. But these socialists do not hold water. The attack on the Rand School is obviously an attack on labor education, for the Rand School has been engaged in spreading such education and in nothing else. And while the Lusk Committee may hide under its ostensible efforts to unearth Bolshevism in New York, its real

Labor-Union Congressmen

By B. MEIMAN.

1.

HON. JOHN G. COOPER.
FROM LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE
TO CONGRESS

On questioning Congressman John G. Cooper from Ohio as to whether or not he was a Union man, he promptly answered, "Yes, and I'm proud of it." That the phrase "I'm proud of it," was not merely a meaningless jumble of words could readily be ascertained by the glint in his eyes, his facial expression and straightening of his shoulders. He is a Union Man. He had been a member of one of the railroad brotherhoods and even now carries his union-book with him in his pocket.

Cooper is only 46 years old but, he has already labored for more than a third of a century. He began work when a lad of 13. In the beginning he was employed in the steel factories; after that he became a fire-man on locomotives. Later he was advanced to the position of engineer. He continued this work until he was elected to Congress in November 1914, but he remained at his job until March 4th, 1915, the day from when his remuneration as a congressman began to be paid. In his office at Washington there even now hangs a picture of him in blue jeans, an oil-can in one hand oiling an engine belonging to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which he rode in the good old days. This is merely evidence to show, that Cooper is not ashamed of his once non-too elevated occupation, but on the contrary feels very proud of it.

One sees at the first glance that this congressman is a laborer—blue eyes, candid urbane features, a stocky body showing good development, but lacking characteristics of the well-rested, well fed politician. He hasn't a single sign of that oily suavity which distinguishes the majority of our politicians. The impression he gives

object is, undoubtedly, to send a dagger thrust into the heart of labor education. Labor representatives, if anybody, might have realized this much. But the trouble with the Hollands and the Fraynes is not their lack of understanding. It is their moral calibre, to put it plainly, their unscrupulous selfishness and their spirit of vindictiveness. In the present campaign against all that is progressive they have found an opportunity to even scores with a few labor organizations, which refused to pay a per capita tax for the purpose of maintaining misleaders in comfortable idleness. The unions which refused "to come across" have been denounced to the Lusk high-inquisitioners as bolshevist and dangerous.

Yet this lowest depth of villain has aroused no protest. The organized labor movement is silent. What better proof do we need that we are hopelessly behind the European workers in the matter of class-consciousness and class-struggle?

Ignorance of the Lusk brand and contemptible informers of the Frayne and Holland sort would not be tolerated by European organized labor. But here they enjoy, at worst, the indifference on the part of the workers.

is that of an open-hearted and earnest worker, who knows no chicanery and deceit. Not an extraordinarily intelligent worker, but a worker at that.

The very first thing that I asked Mr. Cooper, was his conception of a bred-in-the-bone labor congressman; that is, what sets distinguish a congressman as a representative of the worker of the United States in Congress.

The query was a bit too broad and an answer was not so readily forthcoming. I promised to ask him more specific questions later in our interview, but that I wanted in the beginning to have a general idea concerning his conception of the duties that a laborer especially a union-man possesses on entering Congress.

Mr. Cooper then set down his creed: that a worker in Congress must above all be fair to everybody. He must not be too partisan because he will then destroy his own interests and do his class more harm than good. "There are as many extremists in the ranks of labor as there are in the other divisions of society," the Congressman continued. "A laborer in Congress must not be an extremist. He must be an individual who can consider the interests of the other members of society. He must be as unbiased as a corpse. Naturally, a worker (and especially, a union man, must always remember to work for the betterment of the conditions of the laboring class; to obtain better pay for them, to bring about shorter hours, and in general to alleviate their hardships when acting on labor legislation. He must naturally consider the worker, but he must not allow himself to be carried away. He must not lose his balance." These generalizations give very little profound understanding of Mr. Cooper's conception of labor. Such a loose grasp of matters can be attributed to a manufacturer, a merchant, or even a professional politician. I therefore asked Mr. Cooper certain definite questions which are of interest to organized workers.

Question: "Mr. Cooper, don't you think that if the worker had his own party and a labor congressman were to be elected directly by the worker, as a worker, and not as a Republican or Democrat that more could be expected of him by the worker?"

Answer: "No, I believe that it is more expedient for the worker to support the old parties. They can gain much more from the existing big parties than from a labor party."

Question: "What benefits have the workers until now derived from the old parties?"

Answer: "Well, until now it has been entirely different. A new period is setting in. The Republican party is beginning to realize that the labor problem is all important and that something must be done for the worker and I am certain that they will do something."

Mr. Cooper proceeded to inform me that at a conference of his party, the Republicans, he had impressed on them the fact that the worker will now demand more attention than he had been given him previously. Mr. Cooper is certain that the Republicans will do this. I asked him whether he would endorse a Labor party

in the United States founded on the principles of the Labor party in England. He answered that he was not familiar with the Labor party in England and could not therefore commit himself on it, but that he was, generally speaking, an opponent of a distinct Labor party; as for example the one which was founded at Chicago. It is his firm belief that the Republican party is sufficient unto itself. Wherein lies, then, the crux of the matter? "The workers do not give voice to their demands!"

I was also interested in learning this labor congressman's opinion concerning government ownership. I asked him his stand on the question. But he informed me that he had decided against government ownership, not only out of principle's sake but because of practical reasons.

Mr. Cooper speaks of government ownership in a thoroughly characteristic way. Having been a railroad worker for 20 years he imbibed his fair share of "railroad psychology," making certain allowances for the phrase, and in discussing government ownership he speaks of it from the viewpoint of the railroad. This is the only phase of industry that concerns him, and government ownership of railroads, according to Mr. Cooper, is a "failure."

It appears that as a laborer John G. Cooper, could be assigned to that class of worker who is entirely satisfied with conditions. As a better paid laborer he even feels a measure of gratitude to his old employers. He informs me that the Penn. R. R. had always treated him well and that he harbors no ill feelings against that company. On the contrary, he fears that under government ownership will come the regime of politicians and the reign of the Spoils System. "It isn't necessary to call to mind the pettiness of politicians. You have been a newspaper man for quite some time and you know the extent of the activities of the various political circles. You know their domination too well. It is more to be feared than the control by private individuals."

I personally am in accord with this last view, but what about government ownership under a better government? I called Mr. Cooper's attention to the fact that his union and all the other big railroad brotherhoods had committed themselves to the policy of government ownership. He answered that he did not agree with them, just as he does not agree with Gompers' stand against prohibition.

In answer to the question, what would be the best thing that could be done immediately for the worker, Mr. Cooper answered, "The passage of a federal law for an eight hour labor day. Not only should this come about through separate state laws, but through a federal law; one which will entirely obliterate state differences and insure an eight hour labor day to all American workers. This is an immediate necessity which must be realized. It would help put a quietus on the restlessness of the worker."

An eight hour labor day, somewhat better wages, better treatment of the worker—that is the extent of the concern for the

A PLEA FROM WINNIPEG.

July 19, 1918.

Dear Friends:

You no doubt know about the terrible struggle for better conditions carried on by the workers of Winnipeg, Canada, for fully six weeks. Every scheme that could be devised by clever lawyers and ruthless politicians was used by the arrayed forces of capitalism.

The hirelings of the corporate interests tried to show that the strike was an attempt to overthrow Constituted Authority. Then they introduced a Slave Pact, denying the right of collective action, to be signed by all workers on public utilities. The policemen and others refusing to sign this document were locked-out. Armed special police paraded the streets, arresting and beating strikers. Workers were attacked, wounded and several actually killed.

Finally, the Federal Government issued orders for the arrest of the Strike Leaders on the ground of sedition and conspiracy. The true and tried leaders were apprehended in the dead of night and rushed in high-powered motor cars to Stoney Mountain penitentiary. Despite the protest of the workers and the soldiers, these men were kept in jail, only six being released on bail. Since then others have been released on exorbitant bonds.

We must put up a vigorous defense for the arrested men—44 leaders, and dozens of strikers. Winnipeg is exhausted by the terrific struggle and cannot itself carry the burden. The Defense Committee therefore appeals to you, the Workers of America, to come to the rescue. Do not permit the high-handed methods of greedy capital to triumph. We call upon you to give generously, with an open hand, towards the defense of your Winnipeg brothers.

Forward all funds to the address in Canada.

W. RADIS, Representative,
WINNIPEG DEFENSE
COMMITTEE

Labor Temple, Room 1,
Winnipeg, Man., Canada.

J. LAW, Secretary

worker of this congressman with a union book in his pocket. It is the warped vision of the ordinary conservative worker who can't see beyond his nose. This congressman is no more intelligent than the ordinary worker. Mr. Cooper is a good staunch union man, but he is against the founding of a Labor party because he believes that the Republican party is a sufficient labor sponsor and he is even sure that it will do enough to better the worker's conditions. He is entirely satisfied with that form of "tail-end" politics which gives certain union leaders an opportunity to become petty politicians. Mr. Cooper is against government ownership, because he believes that control by private individuals is a desirable state of affairs and that their sincerity on behalf of the worker is not to be gainsaid. Was he not in the employ of the Penn. R. R. and entirely satisfied with it? He had even gained advancement! Concerning the English Labor Party, in spite of the fact that Mr. Cooper himself was born in England, he knows nothing. Such is the type of representative for the laborer whom the Republican party is electing to the United States Congress.

DRESS AND WAIST CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10, RESUMES RELATIONS WITH MANUFACTURERS' ASS'N

By SAM B. SHENKER

Dress and waist cutters will recall Manager Lewin's coming before them some three months ago with a report of the manner in which certain of their cases in the Association Houses were handled. This report, it will be recalled, resulted in a decision by the membership ordering the Manager not to deal with the Association, but to take up each complaint with individual employers.

Following a conference with the Dress and Waist Manufacturers' Association, at which the question of the refusal, on the part of Dress and Waist Cutters of Local No. 10, to deal with the Association was taken up, it was decided that relations be resumed at once pending another conference at which the cutters' grievances will be considered. Incidentally, representatives of Local No. 25 also availed themselves of the opportunity to take up certain of their matters with the employers: matters which have made it impossible for workers in many Association shops to earn a decent living.

Two things were responsible for the resumption of relations. One was the persistent complaints lodged with the International Union by the Association, which had the effect of bringing the cutters before the Conference Committee. Secondly, the change in the chief clerkship of the labor department of the association.

One of the greatest obstacles in the enforcement of standard labor conditions even under the old agreement, the protocol, was the attitude of the former head of the labor department. It has always been the contention of the cutters that it was not so much the formal agreement with the Association — protocol or otherwise — that was in the way of the adequate enforcement of standard conditions, but that the miseries to which the workers were subjected, were invariably caused by the manner in which the agreement was interpreted by the employers' organization.

It will suffice to mention but two cases that forced the Dress and Waist Cutters to order the break with the Association. One is the case of the cutters of Charles Simons. Immediately after the signing of the present agreement with the Association, the cutters of Simons reported for work and when they found scabs working along side of them they caused a stoppage. This resulted in their being summarily dismissed by the firm. When Manager Lewin was informed of this he immediately ordered a Business Agent to instruct the men to return to work. This the Business Agent failed to accomplish because he was unable to locate the cutters. The Deputy Clerk of the Association, however, refused to go out on any other case until the men were ordered back, thus blocking the machinery for the adjustment of complaints. This was altogether unjust, for it must be remembered that the cutters did not report to work within twenty-four hours, or if the Union failed to reinstate them within that time the firm had a right to hire new men.

The second case is distinguish-

ed by still more glaring arbitrariness. It was found that a cutter in a certain shop was underpaid at the time of the settlement of the strike, being paid \$19.00 per week instead of \$27.00 to which the cutter was entitled since he was a 3-year grade man. The Manager, in order to show his willingness to establish harmonious relations, suggested that the cutter be advanced to the standard scale gradually, instead of insisting upon the \$8.00 increase immediately. The employer magnanimously agreed to the proposition but added that he would discharge the cutter at the end of the week — which he did. This was indisputably a clear case of discrimination.

When a clerk of the Association was called upon to adjust the matter he made no effort to act upon the merits of the case, but insisted that the discharge was just and backed this statement with the unwarranted assertion that the cutter was incompetent. Cases of this kind and the general contemptuous attitude of the former head of the labor department, finally resulted in a rupture of relations. At the conference at which the standard of the Cutters' Union towards the Association was discussed, it developed that Local No. 25 hardly received better treatment. One of the grossest violations on the part of the Association employers was the sending out of work to their outside shops while their inside workers remained idle.

It will be remembered that the employers maintained that the protocol had the effect of tying their hands in the proper management of their shops, and that they therefore urged the creation of an agreement which would make it possible for the two sides alone to adjust their differences. They insisted that outsiders were not competent to adjust the difficulties that usually arise. And what is more, they assured the workers full justice under the sort of agreement they suggested.

But no sooner was the new and much craved-for agreement signed than lo and behold, the same old policies towards the workers were pursued; the same arrogance was displayed as formerly on the part of the former chief clerk and certain upstarts, self-styled labor adjusters to whom was entrusted the sacred right of giving the workers an opportunity to earn a decent livelihood. The cutters decided not to tolerate such a state of affairs. They decided to take the chances of a break and stood ready to be condemned by the public. They felt that the break could not make their lot any worse.

Aside from the grievances mentioned there is another thing that will have to be set right before the Union can be expected to deal harmoniously with the Association. And that is the failure on the part of some thirty-five members of the Association to carry out the fundamental provisions of the present agreement; one of which is preference toward Union people. So far they have not given preference to union workers.

When this was pointed out to the members of the Conference

Committee representing the employers, their ingenious reply was that the Association did not object to having within its ranks members who belong to the association without availing themselves of its benefits. This certainly is not a just policy, — a member who shares in its benefits must share in its burdens.

The Union can deal with the Association only as a whole. It is absurd to expect the Union to deal with only part of it. Just as the Association expected the International, with whom it has signed an agreement for the various locals, to compel each local to deal with it, so must the Association compel each of its members to abide by its laws and regulations or stand expelled.

The membership is, no doubt, aware, from the reports of Manager Lewin of the change in the

Association. Some few weeks ago Chief Clerk Mr. Marchess resigned. Taking his place now is Boris Emmet, Ph. D. He was employed by the United States Department of Labor and has done considerable work in this department during the war. As yet it is a little too early to express an opinion concerning the future policy of the Association and its new Chief Clerk.

The next meeting of the Dress and Waist Branch will be held Monday evening, August 11th at Arlington Hall, 27-55th Marks Pl. This meeting should be looked forward to. The outcome of the conferences, if any will be held will then be reported to the membership. And by that time the Manager may be in a position to give an idea as to the workings of the Association under the new Chief Clerk.

A PICNIC OF THE SANITATION COMMITTEE

When some six months ago, a luncheon was given by the Board of Sanitary Control, —celebrating the installation of our newly organized sanitation committees in various factories, for the purpose of cooperating in the maintenance of sanitary standards in those factories — a stronger foundation was laid for our further activities.

And now after six months of successful work we have celebrated our second semi-annual conference with a picnic held at Interstate Park, on Sunday, June 29th, 1919. The beautiful hills pleased our people so much that their happy enthusiasm was truly inspiring. Amidst happy shouts and carefree laughter we partook of a lunch served by the Board of Sanitary Control and after indulging in vigorous games, we all assembled for the conference which opened at 4 P. M. with, Mr. A. Goolar (of Moschowitz Waist Co., 14 E. 17th St.), as chairman.

A short review of our Board's history, its present functions and particularly our educational activities were presented. The future activities of the Sanitation Committees were taken up and the necessity for friendly cooperation between committees and employers in regard to cleanliness was urged. The duties of our sanitation committees were outlined as follows:

1. The sanitation committees are to keep a watchful eye over the sanitary conditions in the factory and call employers' attention to defects that may occur.
2. They are to keep in close touch with their co-workers and instruct the careless ones. In case of failure to secure the workers' cooperation, a special shop meeting is to be called for that purpose and a lecture by a representative of the Board of Sanitary Control be requested.
3. The committees are to be supplied with all the latest health and sanitation bulletins given out by the Board and distribute those from time to time among the workers.
4. The committees also must see that those of their co-workers who are in need of medical aid should be referred to their own Union medical and dental office, which is managed by their Union representatives under the careful guidance of Dr. G. M. Price. This was heartily approved by all present.

A number of suggestions were taken offered, subject to discussion at the next meeting of the Sanitation Committees, which will be called in the near future. It was suggested by Miss I. Kiniskih, that illustrated posters contrasting the worker who observes cleanliness with the one who is careless, be hung up in the factories near the wash stand, rubbish cans, and dressing-room. This would gain the workers' attention sooner than a written poster.

Miss Lena Kanter suggested that the sanitation committees should at the first opportunity formulate plans whereby they could, at their own expense, extend the nursing privileges.

This is evidence enough to show that the visiting nurse, and especially Miss Hunter's work is highly appreciated.

Another suggestion was that picnics of a similar kind should be held (at the girls' expense) at least once a month. They could be called health-picnics and be given under the auspices of the Board of Sanitary Control. Such picnics should include either lectures or readings on health topics. Some questions followed and at the conclusion a resolution was introduced by Miss R. Goldberg thanking the Board of Sanitary Control, Dr. G. M. Price and also Miss Hasanovitz for their efforts to assist them. The resolution was unanimously adopted by the committees.

The conference then dissolved and we completed the end of a happy day by sitting around a bonfire near the river.

ELIZABETH HASANOVITZ,
Committee Organizer

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Labor Items

RACE ANTAGONISM

Admission of Negroes to trade unions is on the increase. This is one of the most hopeful signs of advance in the entire labor movement. History, not only in America, but throughout the world, proves that differences in race or religion between neighboring groups are in the long run used principally for their economic exploitation. Just as the Romanoffs set Jews and Christians at each other's throats, so the Hapsburgs played the various races and creeds of Austria against each other. Irish landlordism, the real enemy of all Irishmen, has sedulously fostered old hatreds between Catholics and Protestants, and incidentally prolonged its own life by many years, while it dupes fought each other, blind to the fact that landlordism is the common enemy of both. The use of racial antagonisms in America is well illustrated by the frequent practice of mine operators and steel companies in the employment of laborers as divergent as possible in race, language and creed. Each barrier to friendly intercourse among the workers makes their exploitation easier. So with whites and Negroes. Social antagonisms carried over into the economic field have been used by interests that will exploit a white man as readily as a black man. The Negro and the white man are not natural enemies. Only the artificial restriction of opportunities makes them seemingly so. The future welfare of both lies in friendly cooperation, not only in the sweeping away of man-made barriers, but in the days of greater freedom, when those barriers have been destroyed. —The Public.

LAWYERS WARNED

The appellate division of the supreme court of New York State has warned lawyers that they will be punished if they attempted to

collect compensation for injured workers on a 50-50 basis.

The court says that any attempt to secure a larger fee than permitted by the state compensation commission is "improper, unethical and deserving disciplinary action."

—Garment Worker.

"AGITATORS" BLAMED

About 1,000 cigarmakers, mostly women, have suspended work in four large factories in Bethlehem, Pa.

It is charged that the workers are victims of New Brunswick, N. J., "agitators" who have stirred up trouble in that low-wage community, and who now come to Bethlehem with their pernicious doctrine of living wages and better working conditions.

UNIONS MUST BE RECOGNIZED

Ottawa, Canada. — Trade unions are a fact and must be recognized by employers, and if employers are not prudent and refuse to accept this condition, their employees will unite regardless of opposition and retain "a rankling sense of injustice."

In effect, this is one of the conclusions of the government's commission on industrial relations, appointed to investigate the causes for social unrest.

EMPLOYERS THINK 50-HOUR WEEK TOO SHORT

Boston. — While metal workers and other employees are favoring — and establishing — a 44-hour week, along comes the national industrial conference board with a report that a 50-hour week cannot be maintained in metal manufacturing industries "without some loss in production." The conference board consists of a score of employers' associations.

THE GENERAL STRIKE OF CLOAKMAKERS IN MONTREAL

Great enthusiasm prevails in the Cloak and Suit making industry of Montreal. The reason is very plain. Two general strikes had been lost in Montreal, and now the third general strike is won. The strike lasted three days and the conditions under which the people return to work are such that every union man and woman can be proud of them. The agreement is short, but it has embodied in it all that present day unions are striving for. A few of the most vital and interesting features are in the first place the closed shop — no one can obtain a position without being a working card from the union. Secondly under the terms of the agreement, we have practically eliminated the contractors of this city. Thirdly any disputes that may arise from time to time shall be settled by a duly authorized representative of the Union. In other words full recognition of the union, and the greatest gain of all, week work. If there was ever a cloak town where week work was a necessity it is Montreal.

A correct statistic of averages has not been taken, but it is no exaggeration to say that the increase amounts to an average of \$10 per member per week. Increases range from \$6 to \$15 per week. The minimum scales of wages are as follows: Cutters \$35, pressers \$38, under pressers \$34, operators \$44, tailors \$27, finishers \$25. Great preparations were made for a prolonged strike, but the manufacturers showed better judgment and conceded to meet the representatives of the Union. The cloak makers of Montreal have by their past action convinced their employers that they will continue to go on general strike until they have gained recognition of the Union and better working conditions.

A GENERAL MOVE IN THE RAINCOAT MAKERS UNION OF MONTREAL

The Raincoat makers of Montreal have signed up agreements with the individual manufacturers and have under these agreements obtained closed shops; a recognition of the Union; 5 legal holidays for which the workers receive pay, and considerable increases in wages in all branches of the trade. The entire situation was handled by S. Goldberg who was assigned temporarily to the work by the Raincoat Makers local. I am sure that the members feel no qualms in having chosen Mr. Goldberg as their representative. He can be complimented on the splendid way in which he handled the situation.

J. LANCH,
Business Manager

SHAW ON DOTARD JUDGES

Bernard Shaw is always worth reading and often worth following. He has come out with the declaration that the English prison system is "horribly wicked."

There should be public defenders and detectives whose business it is to prove that the people did not commit crime. In that force promotions should go by acquittals instead of by convictions. Then a poor man might have at least an even chance. The result might be a lottery, depending off whether the public defender or the public prosecutor were cleverer; but it would not bring the entire power of the state against the accused.

"Most of our judges," continued Mr. Shaw, addressing a meeting in London, "are far too sentimental. When a man gets to 40, he is guided by his passions, which get worse as he gets older. There is a purity of intellect and a passion for justice in youth."

"No man over 35 should be allowed on the bench. After that age he should come down to the bar, where he can give free vent to his temper and accumulated prejudices. The idea that age and experience is a guarantee of justice is not true."

"Never in my lifetime have there been so many extremely honest, high-minded, ultra-respectable people about who have been in prison. Our prison system is horribly wicked. It leaves every man who touches it worse than it found him. It is hideous and stupidly cruel."

"Now it is becoming easy to convince people of this, because, it seems to me that in a very short time every honest man in the country will have done six months and got to know something about it."

England and America seem rather alike in the matter of jails! —Seattle Union Record.

ATTENTION OF DRESS AND WAIST CUTTERS!

THE FOLLOWING SHOPS HAVE BEEN DECLARED ON STRIKE AND MEMBERS ARE WARNED AGAINST SEEKING EMPLOYMENT THEREIN:

Jesse Wolf & Co.,
105 Madison Ave.
Son & Ash,
105 Madison Ave.
Solomon & Metzler,
33 East 33rd St.
Clairmont Waist Co.,
15 West 36th St.
Mack Kanner & Milius,
136 Madison Ave.
M. Stern,
33 East 33rd St.
Max Cohen,
105 Madison Ave.

THE UNION
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY
Local 35, I. L. G. W. U.
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COLUMBIA TEA
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NEW YORK
Bet. 29-30th Sts.

HOLLAND'S REACTIONISM

By JAS. J. BAGLEY,
President of Franklin Union 23.

"Jim" Holland's ranting before the Lusk Committee will deceive no one about the labor movement of New York with the possible exception of the learned legislators who are members of the committee.

For a long time the labor movement refused to take Mr. Holland's mouthings seriously. But this feeling is changing and his own local union recently forced him to resign as its representative at the Central Federated Union of New York for certain of his antics which were detrimental to the organization.

Holland's action on those unions that have been accomplishing something is merely to make propaganda to save him from getting a similar "promotion" in the coming convention of the New York State Federation of Labor at Syracuse.

I have been part of the movement that has tried to dismantle the machine that "Jim" Holland has built with the help of the organized and anti-labor manufacturers of the state. This ac-

counts to some extent for the treacherous attack on me and other progressives who are in the fight to make this a better world. I am proud to be counted in their company.

Holland in the five years that he had been president of the Federation has been identified with every reactionary and bigotted movement in the state. He has accomplished nothing for the workers.

It is the labor leaders of Holland's type who make the workers lose faith in their leadership and seek refuge in Bolshevism.

DR. BARNET L.
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6 JOURNAL Saturday, July 26, 1919.

DRESS AND WAIST CUTTERS UNION TO ISSUE NEW WORKING CARDS

The Manager of the Dress and Waist Branch of Cutters' Union, Local 10, announces that on and after July 21st, 1919, new working cards will be issued and that the cards issued up to the present time will be cancelled.

The procedure in Local 10 is that new working cards are to be issued every season. Hence any cutter found working after July 21st with the yellow card, now in effect, is liable to be called before the Executive Board and charged with failure to obtain a working card.

It is important that every dress and waist cutter secure a new card so that proper tab may be kept on the trade and the obtaining conditions. Business agents are now controlling the trade. They have been instructed to apprehend any cutter who will not have in his possession the new card after July 21st.

LADIES' TAILORS AND ALTERATION WORKERS, LOCAL 80.

A Member Meeting

will take place

TUESDAY, JULY 29th, at 7.30 P. M.

at Mt. Morris Hall, 1364-5th Ave. Cor. 113th St.

PURPOSE: Plans for the coming season will be brought up for discussion and also other important questions.

Executive Board,
LOCAL No. 80,
H. Hilfman, Sec.

MEETINGS OF CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10.

ALL BRANCHES
(General)
Monday, July 28th

CLOAK AND SUIT
Monday, August 4th

DRESS AND WAIST
Monday, August 11th

MISCELLANEOUS
Monday, Aug. 18th

Meetings begin at 7.30 P. M.
AT ARLINGTON HALL,
23 St. Marks Place.

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Practical Designer Building,
PROF. I. ROSENFELD, Director.

222 E. 14th St., New York.
Bet. 2nd & 3rd Aves.
Tel. Stuyvesant 5817.

SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE SHOP CHAIRMEN OF THE LADIES' WAIST & DRESSMAKERS' UNION

Beginning with AUGUST 1st, 1919, all members of Local 25, must make payments on the Green Card now being issued for the next half yearly period, August 1st, 1919 to January 31, 1920. This is a combination of a dues and working card, the color of which denotes the member's standing.

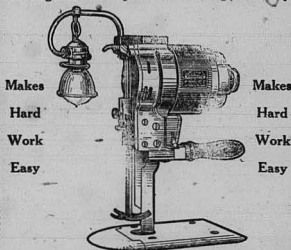
Only members bearing the **Green Card** will be considered **Good Standing**, and they alone will be entitled to preference in employment.

Every chairman is therefore requested to instruct all members of his shop to immediately pay up their arrearages in assessments as well as dues as no one owing any assessments will be able to obtain a **Green Dues Card**.

Fraternally yours,

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Ladies' Waist and Dressmakers' Union
Local 25, I. L. G. W. U.
I. SCHOENHOLTZ, Sec.

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